

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00038 080931Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 IO-14 CU-04 /164 W

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R 080900Z JAN 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1221

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0038

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: EAGR ECON PINT MIL CH

SUBJ: MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS OF HONAN AND HOPEI

1. FOLLOWING ARE MISCELLANEOUS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY OBSERVATIONS OF HONAN AND HOPEI PROVINCES MADE BY DC HOLDRIDGE DURING TRIP TO LOYANG AND CHENGCHOU DECEMBER 27-31, 1973.

2. AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS. AREA OF NORTH HONAN AND HOPEI ALONG LOYANG-CHENGCHOU-PEKING RAIL LINES EXTREMELY DRY. ACCORDING TO CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDES, NO PRECIPITATION IN NORTH HONAN FOR OVER THREE MONTHS, AND WHILE SITUATION NOT PRESENTLY CONSIDERED SERIOUS, SUCH WILL NOT BE THE CASE IF DRYNESS CONTINUES MUCH INTO 1974. WATER LEVELS OF YI AND LO RIVERS AT LOYANG QUITE LOW WITH RESERVOIR LEVELS LIKEWISE LOW, ALTHOUGH WATER BEING DRAWN FROM RIVERS FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES. YELLOW RIVER NORTH OF CHENGCHOU ALSO QUITE LOW (DUST STORM LITERALLY BLOWING UP FROM RIVER BED AT TIME TRAIN WAS CROSSING), WITH VOLUME OF FLOW NOW ONE-THIRD WHAT IT WAS SEVERAL YEARS AGO. SHANTUNG AUTHORITIES COMPLAIN THAT WATER VOLUME INSUFFICIENT WHEN IT REACHES SHANTUNG.

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PAGE 02 PEKING 00038 080931Z

REDUCED FLOW DUE NOT ONLY TO DRY WEATHER, HOWEVER, BUT

ALSO TO FACT THAT COMMUNES ALONG RIVER ARE PUMPING CONSIDERABLE VOLUME OF SILT-LADEN WATER TO OTHER SIDE OF EMBANKMENTS BOTH FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES AND TO RAISE LEVEL OF THEIR FIELDS. CONSIDERABLE EFFORT BEING MADE BY PRODUCTION BRIGADES IN HONAN AND HOPEI TO PUMP WATER ONTO FIELDS PLANTED IN WINTER WHEAT. AS NOTED, SOME OF THIS WATER ORIGINATED IN RIVERS, BUT ELSEWHERE FROM DEEP WELLS. ELECTRIC MOTORS UNIVERSALLY USED TO POWER PUMPS, MOST OF WHICH APPEARED TO BE MODERN CENTRIFUGAL TYPES BUT WHICH INCLUDED SOME OLD FASHIONED WATER WHEELS FITTED OUT WITH ELECTRIC DRIVES. MANY NEW GRAIN STORAGE BUILDINGS VISIBLE, ALONG WITH EXHORTATIONS FROM MAO TO DIG DEEP CAVES AND STORE GRAIN.

3. INDUSTRY. FACTORIES VISITED WERE LOYANG TUNG FANG HUNG TRACTOR PLANT AND CHENGCHOU NO. 3 TEXTILE FACTORY. AT LOYANG PLANT (WHICH PRODUCED 40HP, 60HP, AND 74HP TRACTORS) QUALITY CONTROL OF NEW TRACTORS EVIDENTLY A PROBLEM: DC HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TEST 40HP MODEL JUST AS IT CAME OFF ASSEMBLY LINE AND FOUND CLUTCH SO POORLY ADJUSTED IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SHIFT GEARS; NEVERTHELESS, TRACTOR WAS DRIVEN OFF TO DELIVERY YARD. INVENTORY CONTROL VERY CASUAL, WITH PILES OF IRON PIGS AND MISCELLANEOUS PARTS LOCATED ALL OVER PLANT GROUNDS. NO SAFETY FEATURES OBSERVED ON ASSEMBLY LINE, PROBABLY ACCOUNTING FOR FACT THAT HOSPITAL BELONGING TO PLANT CONTAINED NUMEROUS WORKERS WITH BANDAGED HANDS. NOISE LEVELS IN PLANT VERY HIGH. NOISE LEVELS WERE ALSO AN ADMITTED PROBLEM IN TEXTILE FACTORY-- 10 MINUTES AMID LOOMS WAS ABOUT ALL DC AND FAMILY COULD STAND BUT WORKERS ON 7 1/2 HOURS SHIFTS HAD NO EAR PROTECTION. MACHINERY IN THIS PLANT FOR MOST PART OF CONVENTIONAL DESIGN (SHUTTLE AND BOBBIN SYSTEM IN LOOMS) BUT LOCALLY-DESIGNED TECHNICAL INNOVATION INSTALLED IN SOME LOOMS WHEREBY WOOF THREAD CARRIED ACROSS WARP BY COMPRESSED AIR. THIS SYSTEM ALLEGEDLY FASTER THAN CONVENTIONAL LOOMS. PLANT CLAIMS TO HAVE FULFILLED STATE PLAN 20 DAYS AHEAD OF TIME.

4. MILITARY. NO UNUSUAL MILITARY ACTIVITY NOTICEABLE. (VISIT TO ANYANG, HOWEVER, "NOT CONVENIENT".) GREATEST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 00038 080931Z

PERCENTAGE OF PASSENGERS IN HARD COACHES WAS PLA SOLDIERS, SOME TRAVELING IN GROUPS UNDER COMMAND OF CADRE. IN SHIHCHUANG ONE RAILROAD FLATCAR SEEN LOADED WITH T-59 TANK AND TRUCK. MILITARY AIRFIELD SITUATED ABOUT 35 MINUTES SOUTH OF SHIHCHUANG TO EAST OF TRACK (PROBABLY AT KAO YI) WITH FIGHTER-TYPE JETS PARKED ON RAMP IN FRONT OF HANGERS AND NUMEROUS SINGLE-ENGINE PROPELLOR AIRCRAFT IN MOTHBALLS BEHIND. IMPOSSIBLE TO

DETERMINE TYPE OF JETS. ANOTHER MILITARY AIRFIELD LOCATED JUST NORTH OF HSINHSIANG EAST OF TRACK WITH FIGHTER-TYPE JETS PARKED ON RAMP IN FRONT OF HANGERS, BUT AGAIN IMPOSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY JETS. RUNWAYS MADE OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE CONCRETE BLOCKS WITH GRASS GROWING OUT OF INTERFACES. SEVERAL BATTERIES OF 40 MM. AUTOMATIC CANNON NOTED EMPLACED AT NORTH END OF YELLOW RIVER RAILROAD BRIDGE. GUNS SHROUDED IN CANVAS AND FEW PERSONNEL VISIBLE. RAILWAY BRIDGE PARALLELED BY TWO-LANE CONCRETE HIGHWAY BRIDGE. ENTIRE AREA WEST OF ROAD LEADING DUE NORTH FROM CHENGCHOU TO YELLOW RIVER OFF LIMITS TO FOREIGNERS. POSTERS REFERRING TO WORKERS' MILITIA NOTED AT CHENGCHOU TEXTILE FACTORY AND OFFICIALS CONFIRMED EXISTENCE OF MILITIA UNITS WHICH TRAINED WITH ARMS. NO REFERENCE TO SIMILAR ACTIVITIES NOTED AT LOYANG TRACTOR FACTORY, BUT MILITIA PROBABLY ALSO PRESENT THERE. AT BOTH LOYANG AND CHENGCHOU SIGNS BEARING LEGEND "PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES DEPARTMENT" (JEN MIN WU CHUANG PU) OBSERVED AT VARIOUS POINTS WITHIN URBAN AREA IN CONJUNCTION WITH SIGNS DENOTING REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF THAT PARTICULAR ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT. PRODUCTION BRIGADE JUST OUTSIDE LOYANG CONTAINED MILITIA PLATOON WHICH WAS SAID TO TRAIN WITH ARMS.

5. POLITICAL. AVERAGE CHINESE IN LOYANG AND CHENGCHOU APPEARED MORE RELAXED THAN COUNTERPARTS IN PEKING; IN LOYANG IT WAS POSSIBLE TO HAVE MEAL IN RESTAURANT SURROUNDED BY "THE MASSES" AFTER WHICH WAITRESS SAT DOWN AND CHATTED FOR 45 MINUTES. ANTI-LIN AND ANTI-CONFUCIUS POSTERS VISIBLE IN SCHOOLS AND FACTORIES, BUT NO SIGN THAT CRITICISM CAMPAIGNS OCCUPYING MUCH TIME. IN FACT, ATTENTION TO CRITICISM CAMPAIGNS IN BOTH CHENGCHOU AND LOYANG PLANTS VISITED SEEMED PERFUNCTORY. TWO HOURS WEEKLY DEVOTED TO POLITICAL STUDY IN THESE PLANTS AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 PEKING 00038 080931Z

ALSO IN LOYANG AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BRIGADE. THIS BRIGADE, INCIDENTALLY, GOING ALL OUT UNDER VIGOROUS DIRECTION OF 1ST SECRETARY TO EMULATE TA CHAI, WHICH MEANT ENTIRE WORK FORCE INCLUDING MANY PEOPLE IN THEIR 60'S AND ABOVE HARD AT IT TURNING FORMERLY BARREN HILLSIDES INTO TERRACED FIELDS. PRODUCTION RATHER THAN POLITICAL CRITICISM APPEARED TO MOTIVATE BRIGADE. NO BIG CHARACTER POSTERS SEEN ANYWHERE.

6. FURTHER DETAILS BY AIRGRAM.  
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## Message Attributes

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